

**AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:**

Please replace the title with the following amended title:

**APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR ASSESSMENT OF MATTRESSES**

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 6, line 13, with the following amended paragraph:

It is important to be able to test the mattresses when they are lying on an existing bed frame so that measurements can be taken in situ. In order to grade mattresses independently of the supporting frame, it is necessary to exclude the displacement of the base when the test is carried out. This is done by assuming that the load displacement curve of the mattress base is a straight ~~fine~~ line. This part of the data measured can be excluded by carrying out a double differential of the load displacement curve. This results in a figure which indicates the position of the elbow of the curve which is a function of the behaviour of the mattress. A typical load/displacement curve is given in Figure 5 from which the elbow (51) can clearly be seen.